

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A delivery vehicle for a silver ion releasing compound for use in the treatment of menorrhagia and comprising a plurality of separate, physiologically inert beads bearing a tissue necrosing amount of a water soluble silver ion releasing compound coated on the surface of each bead, the beads having an average diameter in the range of about 1 to about 6 millimeters.

Claim 2 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are selected from the group consisting of polymeric beads, ceramic beads, and stainless steel beads.

Claim 3 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 2 wherein the polymeric beads are selected from the group consisting of polystyrene beads, polyethylene beads, polypropylene beads, nylon beads, polyurethane beads, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer beads, and polyethyleneterephthalate beads.

Claim 4 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are foamed polypropylene beads.

Claim 5 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are solid polypropylene beads.

Claim 6 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polystyrene beads are perforated polystyrene beads.

Claim 7 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polyethylene beads are foamed polyethylene beads.

Claim 8 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate ~~and is deposited on the surface of the beads.~~

Claim 9 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of the silver nitrate is contained within pores in the beads.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are ~~substantially~~ spherical and have an average diameter in the range of about 2 to about 4 millimeters.

Claim 12 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble inorganic silver salt.

Claim 13 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver nitrate.

Claim 14 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver perchlorate.

Claim 15 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver permanganate.

Claim 16 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble organic silver salt.

Claim 17 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver acetate.

Claim 18 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver lactate monohydrate.

Claim 19 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 75 percent by weight silver nitrate.

Claim 20 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 95 percent by weight silver nitrate.

Claim 21 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 20 wherein the silver nitrate is present as a composition that comprises up to about 5 percent by weight potassium nitrate.

Claim 22 (currently amended). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads ~~contain~~ bear about 20 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

Claim 23 (currently amended). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads ~~contain~~ bear about 50 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

Claim 24 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present in a physiologically tolerable binding matrix.

Claim 25 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 24 wherein binding matrix is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic polymeric binder, a gelatin binder, a polysaccharide binder, and a combination thereof.

Claim 26 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a polysaccharide.

Claim 27 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 26 wherein the polysaccharide is a dextran.

Claim 28 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a synthetic polymer.

Claim 29 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 28 wherein the synthetic polymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 30 (original). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the physiologically inert beads are porous.

Claims 31-36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (previously presented). The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are polymeric beads.